

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Formal drawings to replace the informal drawings as originally filed with this application are being filed along with this Amendment and Response. Applicant respectfully requests that Applicant's undersigned attorney be notified as soon as possible if any drawing corrections are required.

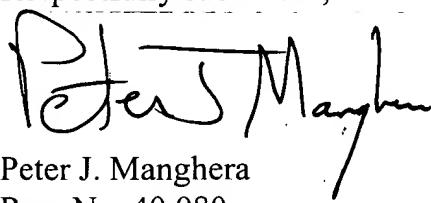
In the Office Action, Claims 2-3 and 5-6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the foregoing Amendment, independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable Claim 2 into Claim 1, from which Claim 2 depended. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from Claim 1, as amended, rather than from cancelled Claim 2. Claim 9 also depends from Claim 1, as amended. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 3, and 9, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

Similarly, by the foregoing Amendment, independent Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable Claim 5 into Claim 4, from which Claim 5 depended. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from Claim 4, as amended, rather than from cancelled Claim 5. Claims 7, 8, and 10 also depend from Claim 4, as amended. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 4, 6-8, and 10, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining pending Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-10, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Favorable action on the present application is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments